

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 OPR-01 AID-05 A-01 L-02 /052 W

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O R 130615Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9326

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AEMR, CB, RP

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF FILIPINOS FROM PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: MANILA 1886

1. WE WENT BACK TO AMBASSADOR VIRAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 12 WITH REGARD TO QUESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. AMBASSADOR VIRAY HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN TAKING ANEW LOOK AT HIS RECORDS. HE NOW SAYS THAT THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 199 FILIPINOS IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. INCLUDED IN THIS FIGURE ARE (A) TWENTY-FIVE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY OFFICIAL STAFF, INCLUDING THEIR DEPENDENTS, (B) THE FILIPINO THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WHO ARE EMPLOYEES OF COMPANIES WHICH ARE PERFORMING WORK ON A CONTRACT BASIS EITHER FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC, AND (C) OTHER FILIPINO NATIONALS. THERE ARE TWENTY-SEVEN FILIPINOS IN CATEGORY (B). WE RECONFIRMED WITH AMBASSADOR VIRAY ON FEBRUARY 12 THAT THIS EMBASSY HAS ALWAYS ASSUMED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO ASSUME, RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVACUATING THOSE TWENTY-SEVEN INDIVIDUALS. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, HOWEVER, WE WILL BE ADVISING THESE FILIPINOTCNS TO SEND OUT WITHIN SECRET

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THE NEXT WEEK OR SO THE SMALL NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS

WHICH OUR RECORDS INDICATE HAVE ACCOMPANIED THEM HERE.

2. TO SUM UP, OF THE ONE-HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE TOTAL FILIPINO CONTRACT EMPLOYEES ONLY; WE ARE ADVISING THAT THE DEPENDENTS OF THESE EMPLOYEES SHOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY SOON AND WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR THESE DEPENDENTS BY USAID-CHARTERED FLIGHT TO BANGKOK.

3. WE ARE REALLY NOT UP TO SPEED ON QUERY IN PARA SIX REFTEL ABOUT WHAT KIND OF WORK THE OTHER FILIPINOS PERFORM IN KR (WE DON'T RECALL SEEING ANY DANCE BAND MUSICIANS). AS A SMALL POPULATION GROUP, WE ASSURE THEY ARE HERE BECAUSE, FOR THE MOST PART, THEY ARE QUALIFIED TO PERFORM VARIOUS SKILLED TECHNICAL SERVICES. BUT WE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE IT TO AMBASSADOR VIRARY TO PROVIDE HIS GOVERNMENT WITH SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THIS ASPECT.

4. IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE "RATIONALE" (PARA FIVE REFTEL) OF THIS EMBASSY'S EVACUATION PLAN AS IT AFFECTS FILIPINOS IN THE KR, YOU MAY CONVEY THE FOLLOWING TO MELCHOR. THIS EMBASSY'S EVACUATION PLAN IS A LONG-STANDING ONE WHICH HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DEVELOPED IN COORDINATION WITH U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE AREA, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE AIR ASSETS WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE ON SHORT NOTICE TO IMPLEMENT IT. AT NO TIME REPEAT NO TIME DURING THE PAST TWO OR MORE YEARS HAS THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH REQUEST OUR ASSISTANCE IN ANY WAY IN EVACUATING ITS NATIONALS. OUR OWN EVACUATION PLAN AND THE LIMITED ASSETS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT IT, WAS THEREFORE DRAWN UP OVER TWO YEARS AGO WITHOUT INCLUDING THE FILIPINO EMBASSY OR COMMUNITY IN IT. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS IS OUR COMMITMENT TO EVACUATE TWENTY-SEVEN FILIPINO CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE PERFORMING WORK IN THE KR WHICH THE USG IS PAYING FOR AND WHICH WE CONSIDER IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GKR DEFENSE EFFORT.

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5. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE IT VERY CLEAR TO MELCHOR THAT NO DISCRIMINATION WAS INTENDED OR SHOULD BE INFERRED FROM THE FACT THAT THE SMALL OFFICIAL STAFF REPEAT STAFF, ONLY, OF SEVERAL OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ARE INCLUDED IN OUR PLAN WHILE THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IS NOT SO INCLUDED. THE FACT IS THAT THESE OTHER MISSIONS ASKED MANY MONTHS AGO TO PARTICIPATE, WE WEIGHED THEIR REQUEST AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OR AVAIL-

ABLE USG AIRLIFT ASSETS, FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE THEM, AND CONSTRUCTED OUR EVACUATION PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

6. IF THE PHILIPPIN EMBASSY HAD CONSULTED WITH US PRIOR TO LAST YEAR'S DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE, IT IS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INCLUDE THEIR OFFICIAL STAFF, LESS DEPENDENTS, IN OUR PLAN. AT THIS LATE STAGE IN A NEW DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REPEAT NO ROOM FOR MANEUVER. RATHER THAN TAKING ON ANY NEW COMMITMENTS, WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF STRONGLY ADVISING THAT THE DEPENDENTS OF ALL POTENTIAL EVACUEES SHOULD LEAVE. AS OF YESTERDAY, ALL WIVES OF U.S. MISSION OFFICIAL STAFF HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY.

7. THERE HAS BEEN NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF AMBASSADOR VIRAY AS TO THE FOREGOING. HE HAS CONFIRMED TO US TWICE DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS THAT HIS EMBASSY HAS NEVER REQUESTED THAT IT BE INCLUDED IN OUR PLAN. ON THE CONTRARY, HE HAS ASSERTED THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS EMBASSY'S INTENTION TO UTILIZE GOP AIR ASSETS IF EVACUATION WERE TO BE REQUIRED. (THIS FOLLOWS A PATTERN OF SIMILAR INDEPENDENT PLANNING AND ACTION BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND THE THAI.) WE ARE, HOWEVER, IN CLOSTFQONTINUING CONTACT WITH VIRARY WITH A VIEW TO SHARING WITH HIM OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE EVOLVING SECURITY SITUATION HERE.

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